



E-PARCC

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration

A Place to Call Home: Eliminating Homelessness in Ireland

Q1) How to characterize the relationships among those providing services to people experiencing homelessness?

- Basic forms of markets / hierarchies / networks
- Koppenjan & Klijn (2004), process of interaction among participants in the network engaged in:
 - 1) defining policy agendas, objectives and solutions,
 - 2) taking strategic action and
 - 3) evaluating and responding to outcomes
- What are the ‘rules’ of the game in which actors (‘players’) participate ?
- Resources among actors which creates mutual dependency?

Q2) Partnership is hard work – lessons drawn for improving collaboration?

- Big difference between being in network & developing effective collaborative relationships to achieve the ‘partnership ideal’.
- There are many incentives (mainly external) to foster collaboration.
- [Collaboration examples](#).
- In this Case – the State is main driver for partnership approaches and collaborative working
- Homelessness Initiative serves as the vehicle for encouraging and supporting collaborative efforts.

Q3) Likely responses of non-profit organizations to the altered conditions of support?

- Fighting back' against the professionalization trajectory
- Generate more support through lobbying and/or media to highlight the plight of homeless families
- Return to voluntarism
- Economic crisis accelerates competition for diminishing funds
- Consolidation within the sector
- 'Forced' collaboration if resources and focus on core competencies
- Increase capacity for philanthropy

Q4) As 'special advisor' on homelessness, how would you counsel the Director of Housing & Sustainable Communities Agency?

- How to address 'wicked problems', such as homelessness?
- Roberts (2000) suggests three approaches to wicked problems:
 - Authoritative
 - Competitive
 - Collaborative
- O'Sullivan (2008) adopts another perspective, where incremental, collaborative and emergent approaches may be the most effective.

Q5) Is the end of homelessness is a real possibility?

- Homeless population in Ireland is quite small, not only in absolute terms, but also relative to the population as a whole when compared to other jurisdictions. The recent (2011) assessment of housing need shows significant decrease in homelessness – even in the context of recession and cutbacks. A reason for optimism?
- What are the barriers and enablers to ending homelessness?